

A MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
WAS HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015
IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

I. CALL TO ORDER: *Chairman Glapion called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.*

II. ROLL CALL

- Present: Roy Glapion – *Chair*, Michael Darnell, Kelly Brown, James Gray, Adria Kimbrough, Ava Rogers, Andrew Kopplin and Nolan Marshall Jr.
- Absent: Rini Marcus – *Vice-Chair*, Kira Orange-Jones, John Sibal, Patrick Dobard, and Mayor Mitchell Landrieu.
- Staff: Deborah Langhoff and Anita Curran

III. OPENING CEREMONIES

- Welcoming remarks: Offered by Chairman Glapion who began the meeting wishing everyone a safe and Happy Mardi Gras.
- Invocation: Offered by Commissioner Mike Darnell
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Glapion

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: – The adoption of the minutes from the January 6th meeting was moved by James Gray, seconded by Mike Darnell, and unanimously adopted.

V. 2015 Recommendations for the Officer Positions of Secretary and Treasurer: - This New Business was brought forward by the Chair, who offered his recommendations for the Office of Secretary who is Adria Kimbrough and Treasurer who is the current Treasurer, Michael Darnell. Kelly Brown moved with a second from James Gray, and the last two Officer Positions were unanimously approved. No comment from the public was offered.

VI. TEEN COUNCIL REPORT:

- The report was shared and began with 8th grader Taylor Collins who discussed the monthly meetings and guest speakers, as well as the opportunity to job shadow with Mr. Werner Williams. Among other things, she learned to keep an open mind from both experiences.
- She introduced Freedom Richardson and Taylor Williams. Freedom talked about speaker Dr. Laura Murphy who discussed human trafficking. Teen Council raised awareness about this subject.
- Taylor spoke about Teen Council's visit to the new trampoline park which was a bonding experience and lots of fun. They also saw a screening of the movie "Selma" and that raised awareness as well.

- Freedom also mentioned that a visit to the Pelicans was his first ever professional sports experience, and he thanked NORDC staff and Chevron.
- Aalyah Jackson, the Queen of the Mardi Gras Ball, talked about the opportunity to job shadow as well as the upcoming College Road Trip to Atlanta organized by Teen Council. Teen Council members expressed their appreciation of the participation of CEO Vic Richard at their events.
- In summary, Chevron Future Leaders have created an executive board to lead Teen Council events and initiatives. They collaborate with their peers particularly in areas of community service, including NOLA for LIFE, painting a playground in a nearby park. She was very happy to help.
- The business etiquette and financial literacy classes were helpful in building confidence.
- Commissioners Glapion and Darnell underscored the importance that these experiences can be as these teens mature and encouraged the teens to reach out to others.
- The CEO showed the film clip of the Masquerade Ball that was shown on WWL-TV recently.

VII. REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEE OFFICERS: Before moving to sub-committee reports, the Commission offered the Community Advisory Team leaders the opportunity to introduce themselves to the community and they included:

- Brad Murrat from the District A Lakeview CAT
- Lynette Adams from District D Dream Team
- Peter Hickman from CAT B-Ware
- Yvonne Mitchell Grubb from District C Westbank
- Michelle LeBlanc-Fine from District A (newly formed)

The Chair expressed his appreciation of their volunteer service and advisory roles. Also present later in the meeting was District A CAT President Morgan Clevenger who requested that the record reflect her attendance.

- **Governance:** Commissioner Darnell delivered a report on the Governance sub-committee which last met on Wednesday January 28th, 2015 in the Homeland Security Conference room on the 8th floor of City Hall, which achieved a quorum. A training was held for new CAT members at the Treme Center. The CAC recently met for the first time and will meet again soon, and the Commissioners will be invited to attend as a Meet and Greet opportunity. A request for a Directory of CAT membership was made and NORDC will coordinate with the Neighborhood Engagement Office. MD requests clarity on the process of coordinating 3-1-1 requests with NORDC. The next meeting will be held on Monday February 23rd at 2:30 pm.

- Facilities: Commissioner Brown reported on the Facilities sub-committee, which last met on Wednesday January 28th in the Homeland Security Conference room on the 8th floor of City Hall at 1:30 p.m., and a quorum was confirmed. In addition to reports that will be heard today, updates included status on restroom privacy repairs, new equipment donations, security camera installations. Community collaborations were discussed. The sub-committee is seeking a better mapping of facilities combining all of the community's recreational assets, including school properties and all greenspace assets. The next meeting will be held on Monday February 23rd at 1:30 p.m. in the usual location.
- Finance/Audit sub-committee report was offered by Commissioner Kopplin. This sub-committee last met on Friday, January 30th at 1:30 pm. A quorum was established and a report was provided to the Commissioners by Chief Operating Officer Mary-Jo Webster on expenditures. Copies of the report are included in the Commissioner's packets and are available at the information table for members of the public. The 2015 NORDC budget is \$10,868,624 in general funds and \$1.183 million in CDBG funds. Additionally NORDF has \$1.125 million of which only \$60,000 has been expended. The revolving fund has accumulated \$100,000 with no 2015 expenditures thus far. There is a line item detail of the budget of how the NORDC allocates those resources, with a summary. The sub-committee will meet again at the end of February to consider approval of these resources based on these line item details. The CAO commended the NORDF and its donors for raising the resources to extend programming in NORDC and make the City's dollars go further. Formal approval of the detailed budget is scheduled for the March NORDC meeting.
- Programming/Public Relations: In the absence of Commissioner Marcus, Commissioner Brown delivered her report, stating that the Programming and Public Relations sub-committees met jointly on Monday February 2nd at 1:30 p.m. in the Office of Homeland Security, 8th floor, City Hall. Approval of the minutes was deferred due to the lack of a quorum but the Commissioners heard standing reports from the divisions of cultural programming, youth and teen programming, athletics, aquatics, outdoor programming, Fit NOLA, and the recreation centers. Unfortunately the meeting came to an abrupt adjournment due to tight scheduling for the room and a full programming report will be delivered by the CEO today.
- Human Resources/Personnel: In the absence of Commissioner Orange-Jones, a summary of the sub-committee meeting was offered by Commissioner Kimbrough. This sub-committee last met on Monday January 12th in 8th floor conference room of City Hall, and approval of minutes was deferred. At the request of the sub-committee, information was gathered by the COO and emailed to the commissioners that, as of Dec 17th NORDC has 18 vacancies with salaries ranging from \$11,838 to \$95,191, without including vacancies that will be created as the new facilities come online in 2015. Also shared with the sub-committee was the annual evaluation document used to assess the performance of all classified civil servants, which includes all but a handful of NORDC staff. The COO will create a staffing report for the next sub-committee meeting, schedule for February 9th.

- NORD Foundation In the absence of Commissioner Sibal, the Chair reported that NORDF has made available to NORDC a rollover of over \$1 million to start 2015. Most of those funds are restricted to specific programs in athletics, teen programs and the FitNOLA parks. The Foundation is focused on raising funds for fixtures, furnishings and equipment for the three new recreation centers and two new pools opening this year. There are several pending requests. Thank you to Iberia Bank for being our Track & Field sponsor for the second year. Please remember that there is an opportunity to join the NORDC Team for the Crescent City Classic on April 4th by signing in online. Funds raised will benefit youth athletics at NORDC.

VIII. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- Victor N. Richard, III, NORDC CEO, submitted the report, both orally and in written PowerPoint presentation format for the permanent record.
- VR opened with comments about the new playground equipment at Kenilworth and at Samuel Square. PlayPower donated \$350,000 in playground equipment for these two facilities, leveraging a \$125,000 commitment from NORDC.
- He discussed the upcoming Aquatics Programming, with swim lessons and other swim activities, and continued the Athletics report with details on the YLC's Kicks Soccer season and Iberia Bank's Track & Field season. Basketball wraps up in early March, with many more teams this year than previously.
- Chevron, the Saints and the Pelicans continue their support of the Character Counts program.
- Cultural programming continues with Painting Workshops. Observance of Black History Month is kicked off with "The George McKenna Story." Movies in the Park spring season is set in neighborhoods around the City.
- FitNOLA Parks are using churches and community rooms to move physical activities indoors during inclement weather.
- Outdoor Programming continues to explore new programming ideas, and enjoys help from Hike for KaTREEena and other partners.
- 2015 NORDC Summer Camp Expo will occur Saturday March 7th from 10am to 1 pm at Joe W. Brown, Treme, Behrman, and Gernon Brown Recreation Centers. NOLA Youth Works is an opportunity for our youth to be employed during the summer.
- NOLA for Life Day was successful on January 10th at Sampson Playground with neighbors, teens, and NOPD cadets, and others participating.
- The next STEM NOLA Saturday will take place on February 21st at the Treme Rec Center with our programming partner Dr. Calvin Mackie, who founded the program.
- NORDC continues the journey begun in 2012 toward CAPRA official accreditation in 2017 that is being led by Maya Wyche. He announced the new position of IT dedicated to NORDC, as well as a new Youth Program Manager, who was promoted to the position from within the NORDC organization, and a new Chief Programming Officer is coming

onboard. NORDC has an offer pending for the Athletics Director position. RecTrak is now in Week 3 of beta-testing and implementation of MainTrak has begun.

- There were no questions or concerns regarding the report.

IX. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

- Vincent Smith, Capital Projects Director submitted the report orally and in written format was well. He noted that the maps were of the NORDC universe. Commissioner Marshall was provided a map of NORDC properties that were close to schools electronically. Here are some highlights from the report:
- CP is tracking 117 projects for \$145.69 million and we continue to track 62 completed priority projects.
 - Seven projects are under construction - Treme gym and pool repairs, Milne gym, Sanchez and Stallings Community Centers, Rosenwald, Peace Playground, and Parisite Skatepark.
- Tracking 15 projects in pre-design.
 - Eagles have established nest as a permanent habitat. Pile test program at Behrman stadium will move forward.
 - RG: Asked about future of the eagles and VS responded that there are three eagles. VR noted that Federal officials are in control of the area. VS noted that an official reserve area could be created.
 - AK: How will the public be notified of the re-opening of Treme? VS responded that this will be coordinated through the Mayor's office.

X. NEW BUSINESS – The advertised election and appointments of sub-committees was held earlier in this meeting.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

- CAT reports: CAT development update was provided by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement and summarized by the Commissioners
 - Commissioner Brown read the report for District A's representative Commissioner Marcus, who was not in attendance.
 - Commissioner Glapion shared the report for District B in Commissioner Orange-Jones' absence, as well as the report for the two CAT teams in District C.
 - Commissioner Kimbrough reported on District D's three CATs.
 - Commissioner Darnell reported on three CATs in District E.
- Follow up to Public Comment: There was discussion regarding the re-opening of the Treme swimming pool, scheduled to reopen.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:

- Commissioner Gray asked about the Joe W. Brown Rec Center being closed for repair work for the gym floor. VR said that he would get the information. JG said that there was a conflict with a planned OPSB event (a tournament) and asked for the CEO to investigate providing access on Saturday, March 15th to OPSB.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT: Chair set comments for a 2-minute time limit due to the number of public comment cards submitted.

- Ms. Marsha Mackie-Wright – Was an elevator installed at Treme? VS responded that it was not. He clarified that we would put in a request in the Capital program with some ADA funding to work towards having an elevator installed. The speaker inquired again on her comment last month about staff being hired from out-of-state and elaborated her concerns about local hiring. AK responded that the Civil Service guides all city positions, and NORDC applicants must go through Civil Service to apply, and Civil Service determines who is qualified. Of those folks, the city department then interviews all applicants and makes a decision on who is best. All may apply from anywhere in the country. Then, after being hired, everyone who is a classified employee must live in Orleans Parish.
- Ms. Erania Jessie commented on the Treme pool opening. Please put opening information on the NORDC website. She added that St. Bernard Center concession area fuses keep blowing out.
- Mr. Theophilus Moore, Voices of Experience, a Rosenwald Gym advocate asks to be part of the Programming planning as the Gym opens this summer. The children in the neighborhood need activities to refrain from turning to negative choices. JG asked the general public to engage in partnerships with NORDC. NM asked if a database exists for people who have active interest. VR responded yes, and there have been meetings for two years on programming at Rosenwald. NM asked for details of the application processes and discussed with VR. JG summarized that NORDC is eager to expand its pool of volunteers.
- Diane French Cole asked who is over Human Resources and Personnel. VR responded Mary-jo Webster. She asked who takes the minutes, and VR responded Deborah Langhoff. She commented on their performance, and she spoke about former staff at Stallings/Gentilly Playground. She referred to racism and mentioned again the death of Henry Glover. She spoke about the children of Stallings/Gentilly and their suffering after Katrina. She said that NORDC doesn't need national accreditation.
 - After 12 minutes, RG asked the speaker to give up the microphone so that 18 other speakers could take a turn to address the Commission. He offered 2 additional minutes to conclude her comments.

- The speaker believed that she was being shown a lack of respect and continued her comments that young people at Stallings/Gentilly complained to her almost every day that they are being run out of the park. She asked how NORDC staff is reported if their behavior is out of order.
 - After the commenter exceeded 15 minutes, RG called the next speaker, offering each in turn the opportunity to speak... Mr. Donald Chopin, Mr. Reynard Thomas, Ms. Deirdre Lewis, Ms. Kim Ford, Mr. Willie Calhoun, Jr., Mr. Pat Bryant, Ms. Morgan Clevenger, and Mr. Ernest Charles had submitted cards to make Public Comments. No speakers came forward.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: *A motion to adjourn was seconded and after brief discussion among commissioners, there was a call for the vote. With no opposition voiced, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.*